

Author and Artist Biographies



Mél Hogan is as an Assistant Professor of Communication at IIT in Chicago. She teaches environmental media, graphic design and other courses in digital media. Her current research looks at the greening of server farms and data centers in the US and beyond. She is a co-editor of nomorepotlucks.org, a research design consultant for mat3rial.com, and the director of the Humanities and Technology Speaker Series at IIT. She was also a founding member of the Fembot Collective (UO).

Blake Westerlund, author of “‘Sentimental Claptrap’: Lost Cowboys, Dead Horses, and the Discarded in Sam Shepard’s Play *Kicking a Dead Horse*,” is forever indebted to his parents for taking their sons on numerous nomadic road trips to Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, California and the Dakotas; it was on these westward journeys he first became fascinated with the humbling landscapes and diverse communities of the West. Currently, when not in the car with his family (Terri, Sam, and Teddy), Blake teaches courses in fiction, nonfiction, film, poetry and drama at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

Derek S. Merrill is a Lecturer in the Merritt Writing Program at the University of California, Merced, where he teaches classes in research methods and methodologies, with particular emphasis on using cultural theory as an interrogative lens. He would like to thank Nicholas Anthony Valdez and Nataša Kovačević for their thoughtful

remarks and insightful feedback on earlier drafts. He would also like to thank the *Pivot* Editorial Team and the anonymous readers for their generous time and incisive comments.

Laura Moisi studied Cultural History and Theory at the Humboldt University in Berlin, where she completed her M.A. with a thesis on “The Reason of Things—Reflections on a Political Ecology of Non-Human Entities.” She is currently a PhD Candidate at the University of Paderborn in Germany and a member of the research group “Automatisms.” Her PhD thesis explores the political significance of garbage disposal practices and the cultural meaning of trash. Her research interests lie in the field of discard studies, feminist philosophy, political ecology, and material culture studies with a particular focus on the relation between material culture and political theory.

Jesse Pajuäär is a photographer, musician, and writer living in Toronto, Ontario. His work has appeared in *7 Mondays*, and is featured in many humanitarian websites such as *Earth Day Hamilton-Burlington* and *Play for a Cause*.

Dara Vador received a BA from McGill in Art History. Her work is held in public and private collections in North America and Europe, and has been exhibited in London, Los Angeles, Toronto, and Montreal. She has been featured by *Harper’s Bazaar*, the *Telegraph*, *Interior Hong Kong*, *Square Mile*, *The Handbook*, *Sharp*, and *Ask Men*.

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